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NEWS CONFERENCE # 803

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH PIERRE SALINGER

OCTOBER 28, 1962

12 Noon EST

SUNDAY

MR. SALINGER: I would like to read a statement from the President.

Q. What?

MR. SALINGER: I am going to read a Presidential statement. I will not go further than the statement. That is, I will not take any questions on the statement. Later this afternoon we will make available the President's answer to Chairman Khrushchev's message of this morning. I anticipate around three o'clock.

Q. This means you have received it, obviously.

MR. SALINGER: It is coming in now. It was a subject of discussion, of course, the message of the Chairman was a subject of discussion, of course, at this morning's meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council.

Q. How long did they meet?

MR. SALINGER: They met for one hour. It just broke up.

The President plans to leave the White House at about 12:30 to go to Glenora to have lunch with Mrs. Kennedy. He will be returning to the White House later this afternoon.

Q. Is that by helicopter?

MR. SALINGER: Yes.

Q. Is there going to be a pool today?

MR. SALINGER: No.

Q. What?

MR. SALINGER: No.

afternoon. I can't give you the time.

Q. The children and Mrs. Kennedy are there?

MR. SALINGER: They are there.

Q. Is this the first time he has left since last week-end?

MR. SALINGER: That is correct.

Q. He went to church.

MR. SALINGER: Except to go to church, yes.

I will now read the statement.

Q. Are we going to get a copy of this later?

MR. SALINGER: I just got it. We will mimeograph it immediately. This is a Presidential statement.

"I welcome Chairman Khrushchev's statesmanlike decision to stop building bases in Cuba, dismantling offensive weapons, and returning them to the Soviet Union under UN verification. This is an important and constructive contribution to peace.

"We shall be in touch with the Secretary General of the United Nations with respect to reciprocal measures to assure peace in the Caribbean area.

"It is my earnest hope that the governments of the world can, with a solution of the Cuban crisis, turn their urgent attention to the compelling necessity for ending the arms race and reducing world tensions. This applies to the military confrontation between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries as well as to other situations in other parts of the world where tensions lead to the wasteful diversion of resources to weapons of war."

Q. Is that it?

MR. SALINGER: We will have a lid until 2:30.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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Q. Is that by helicopter?

MR. SALINGER: Yes.

Q. Is there going to be a pool today?

MR. SALINGER: No.

Q. What?

MR. SALINGER: No.

Q. He is going there by himself, Pierre?

MR. SALINGER: By himself.

Q. And return at what time?

MR. SALINGER: He is going to return later this

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week-end?

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